
⚡ W1TKZ ⚡ The Spark Gap

November 1989

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Hurricane Hugo

by Tom Kinahan, NICPE

Soon after hurricane Hugo hit the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico on Sunday, September 17th, we came to learn of the devastation wrought by the storm. Reports were coming in from the only means of communication with the afflicted areas: amateur radio. I heard damage reports from hams in the islands on 20 meters, only to hear the same reports broadcast by the national news media a few hours later. Governor Dukakis remarked that we should get ham operators together into a statewide effort to get information for people with friends or relatives in the islands.

The gears were already turning. Last year, you will recall, the Wellesley ARS formed, for a few short hours, a health- and-welfare inquiry center from which we originated third-party traffic into areas struck by hurricane Gilbert. This time, Barry Porter, KB1PA, made a few telephone calls to find out what the Governor had in mind, and to ask local ham leaders to start thinking about an operation.

On Thursday, September 21st, Alice Delgado of the Governor's office and Harry Tuttle of the Red Cross met with me, Barry (KB1PA), Bob Salow (WA1IDA), Jim Hatherley (WA1TBY), and Dave Crocker (W1TMO). We decided on an operation just like the WARS hurricane-Gilbert effort. Because we were expecting a larger response than last year, we decided to look for a larger phone bank

than the two lines at Wellesley Red Cross; and to find some Spanish-speaking local volunteers to man the phones, as by now Hugo had run right over Puerto Rico.

We met twice on Friday. By then, telephone service had been restored in Puerto Rico, so we decided to run the operation with radio amateurs manning the phones, since fewer Spanish-speakers were expected to call us. We obtained the use of the large phone bank at the Red Cross Dedham Blood Center. That night, Barry and I called local media outlets to advertise our telephone number, while Bob, Jim, and Dave went to the Blood Center to install a packet station to carry the traffic.

By Saturday morning, we had our packet station linked to K1UGM in Wakefield (who had a ten-meter link to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) and ten telephone lines manned by hams. We operated the center from 10:00am until 5:00pm, assisted by Liz (N1FUP), Elaine (N1GTB), Don (NT1L), Art (NT1M), Vern (ND1Z), Joe (K2VUI), and

Meetings

All meetings are on Thursdays at
7:30 p.m.

November 16
December 7
December 21
January 4

211 Washington Street, Wellesley

nonhams Michele and Kathleen Kinahan. We originated 88 messages under the call KB1PA— fewer than in the Gilbert operation because regular telephone service was restored to many areas, and because we did not get as much media coverage as we had hoped. The majority of messages went to St. Croix, although we took a few for South Carolina, where Hugo had landed the night before. Our efforts were covered by Channel 56 (WLVI), Channel 7 (WNEV), and radio stations WRKO, WEEL, and WHDH.

We considered the operation a success because it brought State government, the Red Cross, and amateur radio closer; and of course because we were able to help so many people communicate with their family and friends. My thanks to all for your support.

Officers

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Tom Kinahan, N1CPE 508/ 877-3456

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New Members

Since last June's issue of **The Spark Gap**, the Society has welcomed five new members:

Ira Chavis	KC1EL
Charles Foundyller	(Awaiting call)
Bill Kocen	KA1KMN
Karl Norton	KA1FSB
Dick Seeg	(Awaiting call)

This brings our total membership to 113, a new record. Actually, this number assumes that all members last year rejoin this year, by paying their...

Dues

Some members have not yet paid their dues for the club year which began last September. If you have not done so, please send your check for \$17 to Mac, WB1BUM, at the club address — or, better yet, bring it to the next meeting. Remember that **The Spark Gap** is not available at newsstands, so the only way you can keep it coming is to "re-up".

Christmas Party

The annual WARS Christmas party — which is also for those who would rather celebrate Chanukah or the Winter Solstice — will be hosted by Liz and Vern, N1FUP and ND1Z, on **Saturday December 2**, at 6:00pm. Their address is 1082 Pond Street, Franklin. Keep your rig on 146.565 MHz (simplex) for help in finding your way.

Please bring your spouse or a friend, and your own bottle.

The pot-luck feature works as follows.

The Spark Gap
Official Journal of the Wellesley
Amateur Radio Society

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The Society's purpose is to encourage participation in amateur radio. Membership is open to all radio amateurs; dues are \$17 per year (September through August). Meetings of the Society are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Society conducts classes for those intending to take FCC license examinations, and examination sessions four times a year. For more information please write to the editor, or to the Society:

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

Decide what you would like to make, then call Liz (508/ 533-6822), who will make sure that not too many people bring the same thing (don't laugh!). Bring your dish to the party, and step back to bask in compliments. If your idea of cooking is Stouffer's Boiling Bags, fear not: there are many items required that do not need preparation; talk to Liz.



Homebrewing Group

by Art Anderson, NT1M

A group of WARS members are getting together to give each other moral and technical support while building the "QRP Three-Bander" transceiver, described in the October issue of *QST* (page 25). The group comprises mainly "appliance-operator" hams, who need some assistance before tackling an ambitious project such as this. Scott Sminkey, N1GJQ (definitely *not* one of the appliance operators!), has agreed to be our technical advisor. We will start with the basics, like what kind of soldering iron to use, and progress through the completion and testing of the rig.

The QRP Three-Bander works on the 17-, 15-, and 12-meter amateur bands, putting out from one to four watts. It features all solid-state construction (much to the disgust of N1GJQ, who prefers vacuum tubes) and full-break-in CW, and is very compact. A kit of parts is available from suppliers for about \$100, or, perhaps we will decide to find our own.

We will hold our first, organizational meeting at 7:00 pm on December 7, just before the regular club meeting. By that time, I will have investigated the details of parts kits, and Scott will tell us what equipment we will need to begin. Also, we can decide when and how often to meet, etc.

If you want to find out more about the project itself, see *QST*. If you would like to join the group, come to the meeting on December 7 (if you can't make that, but still want to join, let me know).

Fellow appliance operators, this is your chance to expand your horizons! Because once you have built the QRP Three-Bander you will speak with authority about VXOs, op amps, and JFETs, just like the big boys.

And next summer, you can have all sorts of fun operating portable while on vacation — using a rig you built yourself!

JOTA

by Vern Valero, ND1Z

The WARS first annual Jamboree-On-The-Air was a successful event. Approximately forty boys wandered through the W1TKZ HF-voice and two-meter-packet setup.

JOTA is a world-wide Boy Scout event. Amateur operators and clubs encourage the boys to chat with each other via amateur radio. In the process, they are exposed to radio, electronics, computers, and geography.

The W1TKZ operation supported the Norumbega Scout Council Camporee at Camp Nobscott, in Framingham. For us mere mortals, this means that the boys camped overnight and performed traditional scouting activities as well as JOTA. Present were boys from such towns as Wellesley, Newton, and Weston, as well as a visiting delegation from Cranston, RI.

The HF operation was a bit touch-and-go. There had been an intense solar flare on the previous thursday. This invalidated our explanation of the need for dummy loads. When the bands died (all of them, simultaneously), we were able to contact the K2BSA/1 operation in Westwood, MA. Later, the bands came back briefly, and QSOs to Texas and Florida were possible.

The packet operation was more reliable. There were many packeteers willing to drop everything to chat via the keyboard with the boys. Many scouts were able to grasp the packet concept quickly and explain it to others. We even left messages on personal bulletin boards for those operators unfortu-

nate enough (!!!) to have missed us.

The boys were very excited about handhelds. Demos of 2 meters, 220 MHz, and 450 MHz went well. The WorldNet was also a popular outlet for our JOTA activity.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic W1TKZ participants, particularly the following hard workers: Tom (N1CPE), Don (NT1L), Dave (KC1PR) and Nathaniel (KC1PR/SON), Scott (N1GJQ), Bruce (KA1TOW), and Rich Greenblott. Thanks to Elaine (N1GTB) and her employer for loaning that wonderful tent. Finally, thanks to Paul Hurney, of the Boy Scout council, and his scoutmasters, for treating us like royalty.

Where do we go from here? Now we have established a bridge to the Scout world, and can establish *rapport*. We can explore the possibility of teaching classes and becoming counsellors in the areas of electronics, radio, and computers. Do you want to help? Enjoy working with kids? Want to help youngsters learn about science and technology? Stay tuned to this newspaper.

W1TKZ to Enter Sweeps

Tom, N1CPE, is leading a group to operate the club station in the ARRL Sweepstakes (phone). Operations begin Saturday, November 18, and continue through Sunday. Rules for the contest may be found in the October *QST*, page 83.

Tom would like as many members as possible to operate during the contest. If you have never done this sort of thing before, here is where to get your feet wet: you can do no damage because W1TKZ is given no chance whatsoever of achieving any kind of distinction in the event. But we have lots of fun. Contact Tom to sign up.

Whose Station?

[from *The ARRL Letter*]

Many amateurs have been confused by Part 97.119(a) of the new Part 97 concerning station identification. This rule states, in part, "...No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station." The ARRL asked the FCC for a clarification of this. The Personal Radio Branch (which governs Amateur Radio) of the FCC has stated the following:

"When another Amateur comes over to your house to operate your station, there are two possible station identification situations:

"First, you may designate him as the control operator of your station. Accordingly, he must identify with your station's call sign when operating within the privileges of both his license and yours. (He signs his call following your call when he operates with privileges that exceed yours.) You both share responsibility for the station operation as outlined above.

"Second, you may simply "loan" your equipment to your friend. The equipment in your shack then becomes his temporary station location. He is the station licensee and control operator. Remember, a station location is any place you can have radio equipment — a basement, car or specific geographic location. In this case, he identifies with his own station call sign, and is solely responsible for the operation of the station.

"Often, hams will travel to another, more effective station to snag a rare DX country through a pileup or work a contest, and want to use their own call sign for DX or contest credit. This is fine under situation two described above."

[Editor's note: this means you may either operate our club station under your own call, or as W1TKZ.]

PARC Visits USSR

[from *The ARRL Letter*]

The Portland Amateur Radio Club (PARC) delegation of seven, departed Portland on September 20. Making the trip to Khabarovsk, USSR, were Dick Fredrickson, WA0DIM, Kevin Hunt, WA7VTD, John White, K7RUN, Rene Berblinger, KX7Z, and David Wright, N7MYO. Hosting their stay were members of the Khabarovsk Amateur Radio Club. Amateur licenses were given to the visitors by the government.

This was the first ever Radiosport competition in which US Hams competed on Soviet soil. Another first was that the Soviet government granted permission to operate portable and mobile during the visit. Portable operation is not normally granted to Soviet amateurs.

In another example of glasnost, two Soviet amateurs were examined on September 28 at the first ARRL/VEC coordinated session in the USSR. The session was held in Khabarovsk in eastern USSR and sponsored by the Portland Oregon ARC VE Team.

The two amateurs were Gene G. Shulgin, UZ3AU (who passed the 20 WPM Morse code exam and the Element 2 written exam—qualifying for the Novice License), and Mike A. Zavarukhin, UA0CN, who passed the 20 WPM Morse code exam and all written elements to qualify for the Amateur Extra class license. Both Gene and Mike should be using their new licenses during a visit to the U.S. sometime in 1990 or 1991.

Frisco Packet

[from *The ARRL Letter*]

Lew Jenkin, N6VV, is a member of the Northern California Packet Association, which comprises an extensive packet network made up of hilltop node locations and over 30 BBS systems spread from Redding, in the far northern part of California, to Kern County in the central part of the state.

As one of the packet bulletin board system operators (sysops) for the network, Lew was involved in handling heavy amounts of health and welfare traffic generated immediately after the October earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area.

After the dust had settled a bit, Lew wrote down his thoughts about the performance of the packet network and lessons learned from the emergency created by the earthquake. Here is a summary of his observations and recommendations:

- Have a network backup plan in place, in anticipation of emergency situations.
- Packet is well designed to handle high volumes of health-and-welfare traffic during emergencies. Tactical communications, however, are better handled by voice.
- Because of networking possibilities, packet networks can respond better than any other form of amateur communications to changes in the emergency situations. Members of Northern California Packet Association were able to completely re-route traffic throughout the entire system in less than three hours.
- There is a need for an emergency bulletin designator—supported, but used only in extreme emergencies.

- Every amateur using packet bulletin boards should be familiar with packet NTS procedures. Circumstances generated by the earthquake required as many hams as possible with packet capability to become involved with handling traffic.
- All NTS traffic should be ZIP-code routed. A major problem was misaddressed or unaddressed traffic requiring manual intervention.

Lew feels that the San Francisco earthquake was "the first great test for this new packet technology" and in general, passed the test with flying colors, under what at times seemed like an impossible situation.

As of October 21, approximately 3000 health and welfare messages were posted on the N6VV bulletin board. 2200 of them had been delivered. All of the messages were, at one point, carried through the network on 220.90 MHz.



DX News

by Art Anderson, NT1M

As this is written, East Germany has just announced the end of travel restrictions on its citizens, leading many to predict German reunification soon. We are as joyful as anyone about this turn of events, but would be remiss if we did not warn our readers to get Y2 confirmed as soon as possible, before it becomes another "obsolete" country.

Please refer any QSL questions to this column: we subscribe to the *W6GO/K6HHD QSL Manager List*, as well as other publications, and would be glad to help you as well as other readers. Recently, Jerry (NV1T) needed a QSL route for ZV7AA and we were able to look it up for him: ZV is a Brazilian special-events prefix and ZV7AA may be reached via PT7AA.

You may have heard stations last month signing "/PTI" and wondered what that meant. A group of Northwest hams were operating from what they claim are the "tribal lands" of the "Puyallup Tribe of Indians", in Washington state. *The DX Bulletin* reports that the group is applying to the DXAC for separate-country status, based on the alleged "sovereignty" of the tribe.

This same group was on in September from Guemes Island, in the San Juan archipelago (near Victoria, BC). They are also filing for separate country status for Guemes, based on a new DXCC rule that any two islands totally separated by a DXCC country count as separate countries. Since Vancouver Island (Canada) lies between Tatoosh Island, off Cape Flattery, and Guemes, the latter would appear to qualify as a separate country. Rick Roderick, K5UR, DXAC chairman, has stated, however, that the new rule was a mistake and that the DXAC would not entertain applications under it (some islands in the Great Lakes would also be separate countries under a literal reading of the rule).

The ARRL now accepts contacts on the 30-meter band as valid for DXCC credit, following a reversal by the IARU, Region 2, regarding award credits on this band. There is no time limit on the change, so past contacts will count.

The 1989 New England DX Convention will be held Saturday, November 18, at the Sheraton Sturbridge Resort. The afternoon program starts at 1:00pm and includes Ralph Hirsch (K1RH/FP), the VK9ZW/VK9ZM expedition, and Don search (W3AZD) from the ARRL DXCC Desk. The evening program starts with drinks and dinner at 6:00pm, followed by Bill Shipp, KC1AG, who will tell about his Walvis Bay (ZS1IS) DXpedition. Several WARS members, including your obedient servant, will be attending. Look for

a report here next month.

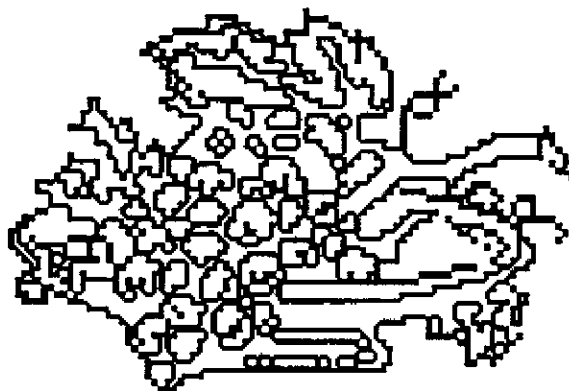
For Gift



Not "for sale", because this is being given away!

Model 19 teletype (KSR) with Fleischer TU-300 and power supply. Call Bill Emerson, WA1EVD, at 617/ 235-8086.

Happy Thanksgiving



Calendar

Calendar

16 Nov WARS meeting
18 Nov ARRL Sweepstakes by W1TKZ
25 Nov CQ World-Wide DX Contest (phone)
02 Dec WARS Christmas Party
07 Dec WARS meeting
09 Dec WARS exam session
21 Dec WARS meeting

Next WARS Exam Session

**Saturday,
December 9, 1989**

Wellesley Red Cross Building
10:00 AM
Call Vern, ND1Z 508/533-6822

The Spark Gap

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

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